Suggestions for nationalisation of rivers

758. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals/suggestions from various quarters that all rivers water should be nationalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Central Government has been receiving suggestions from public for nationalization of rivers. However, suggestions are not backed by any definite strategy.

Release of water to Tamil Nadu

759. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any request from the Government of Karnataka for convening a meeting of the Cauvery River Authority to review its earlier order for releasing water to Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES {SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) During October, 2002, the Chief Minister of Karnataka has requested the Prime Minister for calling the meeting of the Cauvery River Authority to review its earlier order of releasing 9000 cusec of water on a weekly average basis to Tamil Nadu.

(b) The meeting of Cauvery River Authority has been convened on 29.11.2002.

Privatisation of river water

760.SHRIRAMACHANDRAKHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that river water in some parts of the country have been privatized;

(b) if so, since when and on what conditions; and

(c) what has been the fate of poor farmers living on the banks of these rivers who have been drawing their sustenance from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATIBIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Water being a State subject, planning, execution and management of water resources projects is talten up by the State Governments themselves. As such, the information for answering the question is being collected from the State Governments.

Funds allocated for rain water harvesting to Kerala

761. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority are aware of the attempt of the local bodies in Kerala for the last two years to harvest rain water;

(b) whether any assistance will be provided to these local bodies for the above purpose;

(c) whether there is any project to harvest rain water in the various parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the grant spent and sanctioned for the last two years, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) provides technical assistance for rain water harvesting whenever local bodies approach it. The CGWB also organizes training and mass awareness programmes on rain water harvesting in which, representatives of local bodies and public are associated.

(c) and (d) The CGWB has implemented a Centra! Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country during the IX Five Year Plan at a cost of Rs. 23.48 crore under which, 174 projects were approved for implementation in 27 States/UTs. These projects are at various stages of implementation. State-wise details of funds allocated under the scheme during the last two years are given in the enclosed Statement.